

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 6, 8, and 11-13, 15, and are pending in the application. Claim 17 has been appended.

Claims 6, 8, and 11-15 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Schubert et al. (US 6,460,113) in view of Chilton (US 6,732,117) and further in view of Kern et al. (US 2001/0052073).

An interview was conducted with the examiner on November 29, 2005. The undersigned would like to thank the examiner for his time and attention. An agreement was reached as to amended claim 6 being distinguishable over Schubert et al.

Claim 6 has been amended to more clearly recite a configuration of disk array controllers where a first connection unit is connected between a plurality of disk drive units and the disk array controllers, as shown in an illustrative embodiment in Fig. 1. A minor deviation from the discussed amendment is that "connected" has been changed to "coupled".

Schubert's servers 38 and 40 (Fig. 2) are not the recited disk array controllers as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. In addition, none of the art of record shows the recited a first connection unit connected between a plurality of disk drive units and the disk array controllers.

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/004,131


Amdt. sent November 30, 2005

Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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